

TRANSCRIPT OF BROADCAST

By
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Well there is dramatic and gratifying action on many fronts, ladies and gentlemen, in the case of the Polish seaman Richard Eibel, who jumped ship from the Polish freighter Fryderyk Chopin in Newark, New Jersey, 10 days ago, and asked sanctuary in the United States, only to be arrested by Immigration authorities and turned back to the Communist captain of the vessel. Immigration Commissioner Joseph M. Swing, retired general and classmate of President Eisenhower, confirmed the decision to refuse sanctuary last Thursday after he had gone through the motions of sending his chief investigator to Mobile, Alabama, where the freighter was to make port, and interviewing Eibel aboard ship, an eminently unsatisfactory procedure and obviously nothing more than a routine to justify the action that Gen. Swing already had taken. As of last Friday, the Polish-American Immigration and Relief Committee in New York was deep in the picture, so was the International Relief Committee, headed by Mr. Leo Churn, and so was the American Civil Liberties Union, which was trying to institute some habeas corpus proceedings, but found itself blocked by the fact that Eibel was being prevented from any contact with them or anybody else, including the press.

In the final decision by Gen. Swing last Thursday, which is a long-worded form letter prepared as a reply to members of Congress who had made inquiries about the case, there was one key sentence which reads as follows: "There is nothing in this young man's history that indicates any overt or covert opposition to the present regime in his country, Poland." This was the finding of the chief investigator, Mario Noto, despite the fact that the Immigration service had been informed otherwise. As of the moment, the ship on which Eibel is the prisoner of the Polish captain is en route from Houston, Texas, to New Orleans to take on a cargo of grain for scheduled departure for Poland on Friday, so there remain only four days to rescue him if he is to be rescued.

In the midst of this situation, I found myself this afternoon with a rather ironic and unexpected, though none

the less welcome, bedfellow. It was, no less, Radio Free Europe, if you please, the Munich office of which came up with highly valuable and keenly pertinent information on Eibel's behalf. And I am the more happy to commend Radio Free Europe because of the criticism I have had of the organization in the past, none of which I am prepared to withdraw, but it is gratifying to see the operation functioning in the constructive way it is functioning in this case.

First of all is a dispatch received by the Free Europe office in New York this morning stating that the Munich office has found "definite evidence that Richard Eibel was actively engaged, just as he told authorities he was, in October 1956, immediately after the revolution, on the side of the liberal forces against Stalinism." He wrote newspaper articles, one of which I have and which I am having translated--it takes a little time--which the Radio Free Europe report characterizes as follows: "For anyone knowing the situation existing at the time, the article will be considered outspoken and courageous."

There is also an evaluation of the case from the Munich office which reads as follows: "We find, as we are sure you do, the Richard Eibel case quite appalling, and we are much concerned with negative reaction our target areas, especially Poland, when facts of the case become known. While it may in fact now be true that because of extensive publicity given the case in the United States, Polish authorities may treat Eibel with some leniency when he returns to Poland in order to demonstrate the liberal attitude of present regime, the whole incident is found to be most disillusioning to our audiences in view of their traditional view of the United States, the haven for the oppressed. Apparent failure to give Eibel proper hearing will be particularly discouraging to the cases of the more unfortunate, in view of the tradition of Western European countries in granting asylum in many instances where objective conditions of escapees are scarcely as compelling as those of Eibel. It is obvious background information you have sent that many individuals and organizations in the United States are doing all in their power to alter the verdict, but the issue certainly does not look hopeful. We have registered this case in our newscast and will do the same should there be any further hard developments."

And finally, so far as Radio Free Europe is concerned, there is this additional information from Munich, and this is in the form of a memorandum. It appears from Polish press excerpts that until October 1956, Richard Eibel was a member of the ZMP, the only organization the Polish use which was allowed

under the Stalinist regime previous to Gomulka's coming to power. The great majority of ZMP members were forced to enroll although they were not Communists. Membership in ZMP was practically compulsory because otherwise students could not pass examinations nor receive stipends. Richard Eibel was secretary of the local branch of ZMP in Gdynia at the Merchant Marine school. His article in Standard Mlodych, that means youth banner, of June 14, 1955, is signed in this capacity.

The ZMP fell to pieces when compulsion ceased following Gomulka's coming to power on October 19, 1956. Two new youth organizations came then into being. The ZMS, being the expression of Gomulka's new trend of Communism, and the ZMD, the union of young democrats which came into being spontaneously.

In the fall of 1956, Eibel was a member and one of the organizers of the local branch of ZMD in the Merchant Marine school. He made speeches there and was one of its leaders at the age of 22. It is a fact that ZMD was later forced to disband by the Gomulka regime for alleged reactionary activity and infiltration by enemy agents. The fact that Eibel, before joining ZMD, was the secretary of ZMP, the official Polish equivalent to the Komsomol, makes him the more vulnerable to political persecution because he can easily be accused of being a traitor to Communism. This accusation, while dormant until the New York incident, would now certainly be dug out and used against him. The Communists have long memories.

That is the end of the intelligence report from Radio Free Europe about this case, about the young seaman whom retired Gen. Joseph Swing, the immigration commissioner, is sending back to Poland because, he said, the Polish Government has assured him there will be no recriminations and it will actually help Eibel to get to the United States under an orderly procedure.